

## **Marine Region Program Descriptions and Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives**

### **Program: Fisheries Management: State Managed Species**

The State Managed Species program focuses on the ongoing data analysis, data collection, report preparation, and management recommendation processes for marine finfish and invertebrate species managed solely by the State of California. This program's scope includes commercial fishing, recreational fishing, and marine hatchery/aquaculture operations. Projects within the program focus on various species groups and/or habitats primarily found within State waters. This includes Bay and estuarine habitats, invertebrate species, and finfish species. The program also includes a function to review and analyze existing fisheries for potential management changes.

### **Project: Aquaculture and Bay Management**

The Aquaculture and Bay Management Project includes staff directed towards the management of important commercial and recreational fisheries occurring primarily within Bays and Estuaries and who provide input and oversight of marine aquaculture and the white seabass hatchery programs.

### **Budgeted Resources Dedicated to the Project:**

This project includes nine positions and a Personal Services budget of \$675,158.

**Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives for FY 2006-07:** In FY 2006-07 the Aquaculture and Bay Management project will focus on management of the Pacific herring commercial fishery, white seabass aquaculture, assisting with the preparation of a programmatic EIR for mariculture, and assessing management needs for other bay and estuarine species.

- Biomass assessments for Humboldt Bay/Crescent City Harbor, Tomales Bay, and San Francisco Bay commercial herring fisheries will be completed.
- Develop Pacific Herring quota options for the Fish and Game Commission's (Commission) consideration.
- A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will be completed for the White Seabass project and circulated for public comment.
- A White Seabass Enhancement Plan will be completed, and new coastal permits from the Coastal Commission obtained.
- A Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for Aquaculture will be completed and circulated for public comment.
- A Draft Supplemental Environmental Document (DSEIR) for the state herring fisheries will be completed, circulated for public comment, and ratified by the Commission.

- Project staff will identify baseline information needs for each bay statewide, and begin the process for determining how to collect the data. Emphasis will be on bays closest to Marine Protected Areas initially.
- A new position will be dedicated initially to assisting with the preparation of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for Aquaculture pursuant to AB 201; a Biologist position currently vacant in the Bodega Bay office, will be filled and will work on managing the herring fishery in Tomales Bay, assist with the San Francisco Bay commercial herring fishery, identify management needs for Tomales Bay and help develop future priorities for the project
- Training for the new biologists would include but not be limited to a) CEQA guidelines training; b) boat handling; c) drafting regulations for the Commission; and d) technical writing.

**Key Measurable (Planned) Objectives for FY 2007-08:** In FY 2007-08 the project will shift its focus to management of priority species identified in the past fiscal year.

- Biomass assessments for Humboldt Bay/Crescent City Harbor, Tomales Bay, and San Francisco Bay commercial herring fisheries will be completed
- Develop Pacific herring quota options for the Commission's consideration
- Implementation of the recommendations and requirements described in the PEIR for Aquaculture, the White Seabass Enhance Plan, the EIR for White Seabass, and the Final Supplemental Environmental Document (FSEIR) for the Pacific herring fisheries
- Develop a coordination and collaboration plan with other state and federal agencies, industry members, and other Department regions and projects
- Based on baseline information, develop management strategies for priority species
- Start implementing management strategies on some of the priority species identified
- Additional management activities identified in 2006-07 that had not been completed will go forward
- Additional training in writing, data collection techniques and analysis, and communication and presentation skills would benefit the new hires as well as the rest of the Aquaculture and Bay Management staff